

Appl. No. 10/729,634
Amdt. dated July 25, 2007
Reply to Office Action Mailed April 12, 2007

Amendments to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 (currently amended): A retractor, comprising:
a shaft extending at least partially through a cannula; and
~~an inflatable bladder disposed at an end of the shaft, wherein a portion of the bladder comprises a rigid surface~~ a plurality of filaments extending from the cannula, the plurality of filaments being repositionable from a first condition to a second condition;
a sleeve coaxially disposed about and movable with respect to the cannula, the sleeve being axially movable between a first position and a second position; and
a positioner disposed at a distal end of the shaft.

Claims 2-3 (cancelled).

Claim 4 (currently amended): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the positioner is an inflatable bladder does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 5 (Original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 10 mmHg to 1000 mmHg.

Claim 6 (original): The retractor of claim 5, wherein the inflatable bladder operates at inflation pressures from 100mmHg to 1000mmHg.

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Claim 7 (original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the shaft is rigid.

Claim 8 (original): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the shaft is flexible.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The retractor of claim 1, ~~further comprising a~~ wherein the cannula having defines a passage therethrough which receives the shaft to deploy the ~~bladder~~ plurality of filaments at a target site in tissue.

Claims 10-12 (cancelled).

Claim 13 (currently amended): The retractor of claim ~~12~~ 1, wherein the plurality of plates or filaments is disposed about the periphery of the bladder positioner.

Claims 14-15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (new): The retractor of claim 4, wherein the positioner does not stretch when fully inflated.

Claim 17 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the plurality of filaments is formed of an at least semi-rigid material.

Claim 18 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is formed of a rigid material.

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Claim 19 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is formed of a flexible material.

Claim 20 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the plurality of filaments is pivotally disposed at a distal end of the cannula.

Claim 21 (new): The retractor of claim 4, wherein inflation of the positioner repositions the plurality of filaments from the first condition to the second condition.

Claim 22 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein distal positioning of the sleeve relative to the cannula repositions the plurality of filaments from the second condition to the first condition.

Claim 23 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein proximal positioning of the sleeve relative to the cannula maintains the plurality of filaments in the first condition.

Claim 24 (new): The retractor of claim 1, wherein the plurality of filaments are parallel to one another in the first condition and are radially spaced apart in the second condition.

Claim 25 (new): A retractor, comprising:

a shaft;
a plurality of inflatable filaments pivotally connected to the shaft; and
a sleeve member coaxially disposed with respect to the shaft and being movably supported thereon such that the sleeve is repositionable amongst a plurality of positions

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including at least a first position and a second position.

Claim 26 (new): The retractor of claim 25, wherein the sleeve member is axially movable with respect to the shaft between the first position and the second position.

Claim 27 (new): The retractor of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is at least partially disposed about the plurality of inflatable filaments in the first position.

Claim 28 (new): The retractor of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is disposed proximally of the plurality of inflatable filaments in the second position.

Claim 29 (new): The retractor of claim 25, wherein the sleeve member allows the plurality of inflatable filaments to transition from a first state to at least one subsequent state when the sleeve is in a proximalmost position.

Claim 30 (new): The retractor of claim 25, wherein the sleeve member maintains the plurality of inflatable filaments in a first state when the sleeve member is in a distalmost position.

Claim 31 (new): The retractor of claim 29, wherein the plurality of inflatable filaments is parallel in the first state.

Claim 32 (new): The retractor of claim 29, wherein the plurality of inflatable filaments

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extends radially outward in the at least one subsequent state.